

# Yellowstone County



**COMMISSIONERS**  
(406) 256-2701  
(406) 256-2777 (FAX)

P.O. Box 35000  
Billings, MT 59107-5000  
[commission@co.yellowstone.mt.gov](mailto:commission@co.yellowstone.mt.gov)

June 4, 2019

Denver Regional EDA Office  
Angela Belden Martinez, Regional Director  
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431  
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Angela Belden Martinez:

Our organization is writing this letter in support of Big Sky Economic Development Authority's application for a Federal Economic Development Agency Grant (Economic Development Assistance Program - EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs). The purpose of this grant is to purchase and renovate a historic building in the heart of our federally designated Opportunity Zone in Billings' downtown core, with the goal of attracting private investment, fostering entrepreneurship, and creating jobs.

The project is consistent with the goals set in our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A strong example of this is the new Rock31 entrepreneurial resource center. Having a center in our region where start-ups and existing businesses can connect with mentors, work, and grow their business, while leveraging BSEDA's suite of support services is vital to our community's long-term economic growth. This grant will allow BSEDA to further execute their mission of providing leadership and resources for business creation, expansion, and retention in a facility that will meet the ever-changing needs of our community's businesses and entrepreneurs.

It is our intent to maintain our strong partnership with BSEDA as they look to strengthen support services for entrepreneurship in our region. The goal of having a one-stop center to encourage, train, and mentor entrepreneurs is at the heart of this effort, and BSEDA has our unqualified support and commitment to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and support of the BSEDA application. The EDA's partnership with our community is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

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BOCC/emw